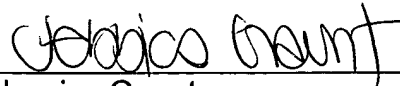


PATENT

I hereby certify that on the date specified below, this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

March 31, 2005
Date


Jessica Gaunt

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Kai Wang et al.
Application No. : 09/801,196
Filed : March 6, 2001
For : NOVEL MATRIX METALLOPROTEINASE (MMP-25)
EXPRESSED IN SKIN CELLS

Art Unit : 1634
Docket No. : 60117-61
Date : March 31, 2005

Attention: Office of Petitions
Mail Stop Petition
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Commissioner for Patents:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as shown on the following pages: